GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DISINVESTMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6442
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2003
DISINVESTMENT OF HPCL RND BPCL
SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision of the Government to privatise HPCL and BPCL without amending the ESSO (and Burmah Shell) acquisition of undertaking Act has been criticized by the experts as reported in the Indian Express dated March 12, 2003;

(b) if soT whether the Government have been actively considering on re-examine the issue in view of its criticism by experts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE):

(a) Government is aware of the newspaper report appearing in the Indian Express on March,12, 2003 that some personages have criticized HPCL and BPCL disinvestment.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Since a Writ Petition No. 171 of 2003 has been filed by Centre for Public Interest Litigation on 13.3.2003 on this issue, the matter is now before the Hon`ble Supreme Courtand Government has been issued a notice. Government will give its response within the stipulated period.